STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

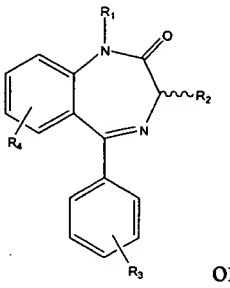
1. (original) A method of treating a condition associated with dysregulation of the process of cell death in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a benzodiazepine compound.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine does not bind to a central benzodiazepine receptor and binds only with low affinity to a peripheral benzodiazepine receptor.

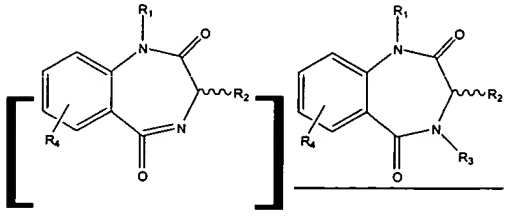
3. (original) The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the benzodiazepine induces apoptosis in a low serum assay.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is not a chronic inflammatory condition.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine is a compound having the structure:



or



or its enantiomer,

wherein,

R_1 is aliphatic or aryl;

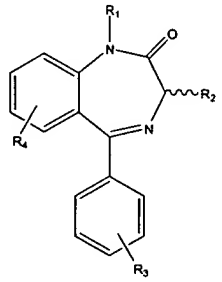
R_2 is aliphatic, aryl, $-NH_2$, $-NHC(=O)-R_5$ or a moiety that participates in hydrogen bond formation,

wherein R_5 is aryl, heterocyclic, $-R_6-NH-C(=O)-R_7$ or $-R_6-C(=O)-NH-R_7$, wherein R_6 is an aliphatic linker of 1-6 carbons and R_7 is aliphatic, aryl, or heterocyclic; and

each of R_3 and R_4 is independently hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, amino, lower-alkyl-substituted-amino, acetylamino, hydroxyamino, an aliphatic group having 1-8 carbons and 1-20 hydrogens, aryl, or heterocyclic;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or derivative thereof.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine is a compound having the structure:



or its enantiomer,

wherein,

R_1 is aliphatic or aryl;

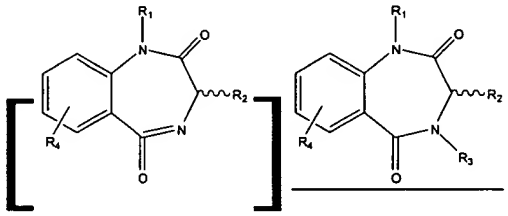
R_2 is aliphatic, aryl, $-NH_2$, $-NHC(=O)-R_5$ or a moiety that participates in hydrogen bond formation,

wherein R_5 is aryl, heterocyclic, $-R_6-NH-C(=O)-R_7$ or $-R_6-C(=O)-NH-R_7$, wherein R_6 is an aliphatic linker of 1-6 carbons and R_7 is aliphatic, aryl, or heterocyclic; and

each of R_3 and R_4 is independently hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, amino, lower-alkyl-substituted-amino, acetylamino, hydroxyamino, an aliphatic group having 1-8 carbons and 1-20 hydrogens, aryl, or heterocyclic;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or derivative thereof.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the benzodiazepine is a compound having the structure:



or its enantiomer,

wherein,

R_1 is aliphatic or aryl;

R_2 is aliphatic, aryl, $-NH_2$, $-NHC(=O)-R_5$ or a moiety that participates in hydrogen bond formation,

wherein R_5 is aryl, heterocyclic, $-R_6-NH-C(=O)-R_7$ or $-R_6-C(=O)-NH-R_7$, wherein R_6 is an aliphatic linker of 1-6 carbons and R_7 is aliphatic, aryl, or heterocyclic; and

each of R_3 and R_4 is independently hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, amino, lower-alkyl-substituted-amino, acetylamino, hydroxyamino, an aliphatic group having 1-8 carbons and 1-20 hydrogens, aryl, or heterocyclic;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or derivative thereof.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell death is apoptotic.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell death is necrotic.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dysregulation of the process of cells death is caused by disruption of the FAS pathway.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is an autoimmune disease.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the autoimmune disease is a disease selected from the group consisting of systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjögren's syndrome, graft-versus-host disease and myasthenia gravis.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is a chronic inflammatory condition.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the chronic inflammatory condition is psoriasis, asthma, or Crohn's disease.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is a hyper-proliferative disorder.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the hyper-proliferative disorder is a neoplastic condition.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the hyper-proliferative disorder is selected from the group consisting of B-cell lymphoma, T-cell lymphoma, cancer, chemo-resistant cancers, disorders related to deficient p53 expression, and disorders related to overexpression of endogenous bcl-x_L

18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition is induced by a viral infection.

19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the viral infection is caused by a virus selected from the group consisting of herpes virus, papilloma virus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

20. (original) The method of claim1, wherein the condition is atherosclerosis or osteoarthritis.

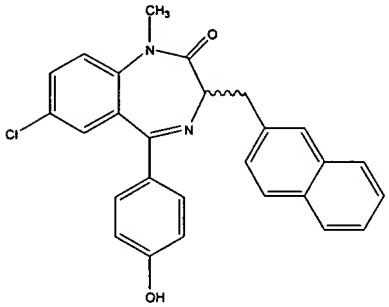
21. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising co-administering one or more additional agents to the subject.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the additional agent is a chemotherapeutic agent or radiation.

23. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered orally, parenterally, topically or intranasally.

24-129. (canceled).

130. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said benzodiazepine compound is



131. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said condition is psoriasis.